

**Table 15—Mast cell antagonists/Mast cell protease inhibitor
peptide sequences**

Sequence/structure	SEQ ID NO:
SGSGVLKRPLPILPVTR	272
RWLSSRPLPPLPPRT	273
GSGSYDTLALPSLPLHPMSS	274
GSGSYDTRALPSLPLHPMSS	275
GSGSSGVTMYPKLPPHWSMA	276
GSGSSGVRMYPKLPPHWSMA	277
GSGSSSMRMVPTIPGSAKHG	278
RNR	NR
QT	NR
RQK	NR
NRQ	NR
RQK	NR
RNRQKT	436
RNRQ	437
RNRQK	438
NRQKT	439
RQKT	440

Table 16—SH3 antagonist peptide sequences

Sequence/structure	SEQ ID NO:
RPLPPLP	282
RELPPPLP	283
SPLPPLP	284
GPLPPLP	285
RPLPIPP	286
RPLPIPP	287
RRLPPTP	288
RQLPPTP	289
RPLPSRP	290
RPLPTRP	291
SRLPPLP	292
RALPSPP	293
RRLPRTT	294
RPVPPIT	295
ILAPPVP	296
RPLPMLP	297
RPLPILP	298
RPLPSLP	299
RPLPSLP	300
RPLPMIP	301
RPLPLIP	302
RPLPPTP	303
RSLPPLP	304
RPQPPPP	305
RQLPIPP	306
XXXRPLPPLPXP	307
XXXRPLPPIPX	308
XXXRPLPPLPXX	309
RXXRPLPPLPXP	310
RXXRPLPPLPPP	311
PPPYPPPIPX	312
PPPYPPPPVPXX	313
LXXRPLPXYP	314
YXXRPLPXL	315
PPXOXPPPYP	316
+PPYPXKPXWL	317
RPXYPYR+SXP	318
PPVPPRPXXTL	319
YPYLPYK	320
+OXPLPXL	321

Table 17—Somatostatin or cortistatin mimetic peptide sequences

Sequence/structure	SEQ ID NO:
X ¹ -X ² -Asn-Phe-Phe-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-X ³ -Ser-X ⁴	473
Asp Arg Met Pro Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys Lys	474
Met Pro Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys Lys	475
Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys Lys	476
Asp Arg Met Pro Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys	477
Met Pro Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys	478
Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys	479
Asp Arg Met Pro Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys	480
Met Pro Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys Lys	481
Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys Lys	482
Asp Arg Met Pro Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys	483
Met Pro Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys	484
Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Ser Ser Cys	485
Asp Arg Met Pro Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys Lys	486
Met Pro Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys Lys	487
Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys Lys	488
Asp Arg Met Pro Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys	489
Met Pro Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys	490
Cys Arg Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys	491
Asp Arg Met Pro Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys Lys	492
Met Pro Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys Lys	493
Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys Lys	494
Asp Arg Met Pro Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys	495
Met Pro Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys	496
Cys Lys Asn Phe Phe Trp Lys Thr Phe Thr Ser Cys	497

Table 18—UKR antagonist peptide sequences

Sequence/structure	SEQ ID NO:
AEPMPHSLNFSQYLWYT	196
AEHTYSSLWDTYSPLAF	197
AELDLWMRHYPLSFSNR	198
AESSLWTRYAWPSMPSY	199
AEWHPGLSFGSYLWSKT	200
AEPALLNWSFFFNPGLH	201
AEWSFYNLHLPEPQTIF	202
AEPLDLWSLYSLPPLAM	203
AEPTLWQLYQFPLRLSG	204
AEISFSELMWLRSTPAF	205
AELSEADLWTTWFGMGS	206
AESSLWRIFSPSALMMS	207
AESLPTLTSILWGKESV	208
AETLFMDLWHDKHILLT	209
AEILNFPLWHEPLWSTE	210
AESQTGTLNTLFWNTLR	211
AEPVYQYELDSYLRSY	430
AELDLSTFYDIQYLLRT	431
AEFFKLGPNGYVYLHSA	432
FKLXXXGYVYL	433
AESTYHHLSLGYMYTLN	434
YHXLXXGYMYT	435

**Table 19—Macrophage and/or
T-cell inhibiting peptide sequences**

Sequence/structure	SEQ ID NO:
Xaa-Yaa-Arg	NR
Arg-Yaa-Xaa	NR
Xaa-Arg-Yaa	NR
Yaa-Arg-Xaa	NR
Ala-Arg	NR
Arg-Arg	NR
Asn-Arg	NR
Asp-Arg	NR
Cys-Arg	NR
Gln-Arg	NR
Glu-Arg	NR
Gly-Arg	NR
His-arg	NR
Ile-Arg	NR
Leu-Arg	NR
Lys-Arg	NR
Met-Arg	NR
Phe-Arg	NR
Ser-Arg	NR
Thr-Arg	NR
Trp-Arg	NR
Tyr-Arg	NR
Val-Arg	NR
Ala-Glu-Arg	NR
Arg-Glu-Arg	NR
Asn-Glu-Arg	NR
Asp-Glu-Arg	NR
Cys-Glu-Arg	NR
Gln-Glu-Arg	NR
Glu-Glu-Arg	NR
Gly-Glu-Arg	NR
His-Glu-Arg	NR
Ile-Glu-Arg	NR
Leu-Glu-Arg	NR
Lys-Glu-Arg	NR
Met-Glu-Arg	NR
Phe-Glu-Arg	NR
Pro-Glu-Arg	NR
Ser-Glu-Arg	NR
Thr-Glu-Arg	NR
Trp-Glu-Arg	NR
Tyr-Glu-Arg	NR
Val-Glu-Arg	NR

Arg-Ala	NR
Arg-Asp	NR
Arg-Cys	NR
Arg-Gln	NR
Arg-Glu	NR
Arg-Gly	NR
Arg-His	NR
Arg-Ile	NR
Arg-Leu	NR
Arg-Lys	NR
Arg-Met	NR
Arg-Phe	NR
Arg-Pro	NR
Arg-Ser	NR
Arg-Thr	NR
Arg-Trp	NR
Arg-Tyr	NR
Arg-Val	NR
Arg-Glu-Ala	NR
Arg-Glu-Asn	NR
Arg-Glu-Asp	NR
Arg-Glu-Cys	NR
Arg-Glu-Gln	NR
Arg-Glu-Glu	NR
Arg-Glu-Gly	NR
Arg-Glu-His	NR
Arg-Glu-Ile	NR
Arg-Glu-Leu	NR
Arg-Glu-Lys	NR
Arg-Glu-Met	NR
Arg-Glu-Phe	NR
Arg-Glu-Pro	NR
Arg-Glu-Ser	NR
Arg-Glu-Thr	NR
Arg-Glu-Trp	NR
Arg-Glu-Tyr	NR
Arg-Glu-Val	NR
Ala-Arg-Glu	NR
Arg-Arg-Glu	NR
Asn-Arg-Glu	NR
Asp-Arg-Glu	NR
Cys-Arg-Glu	NR
Gln-Arg-Glu	NR
Glu-Arg-Glu	NR
Gly-Arg-Glu	NR
His-Arg-Glu	NR
Ile-Arg-Glu	NR
Leu-Arg-Glu	NR
Lys-Arg-Glu	NR
Met-Arg-Glu	NR

Phe-Arg-Glu	NR
Pro-Arg-Glu	NR
Ser-Arg-Glu	NR
Thr-Arg-Glu	NR
Trp-Arg-Glu	NR
Tyr-Arg-Glu	NR
Val-Arg-Glu	NR
Glu-Arg-Ala,	NR
Glu-Arg-Arg	NR
Glu-Arg-Asn	NR
Glu-Arg-Asp	NR
Glu-Arg-Cys	NR
Glu-Arg-Gln	NR
Glu-Arg-Gly	NR
Glu-Arg-His	NR
Glu-Arg-Ile	NR
Glu-Arg-Leu	NR
Glu-Arg-Lys	NR
Glu-Arg-Met	NR
Glu-Arg-Phe	NR
Glu-Arg-Pro	NR
Glu-Arg-Ser	NR
Glu-Arg-Thr	NR
Glu-Arg-Trp	NR
Glu-Arg-Tyr	NR
Glu-Arg-Val	NR

Table 20—Additional Exemplary Pharmacologically Active Peptides

Sequence/structure	SEQ ID NO:	Activity
VEPNCDIHVMWEWECFERL	1027	VEGF-antagonist
GERWCFDGPLTWVCGEES	1084	VEGF-antagonist
RGWVEICVADDNGMCVTEAQ	1085	VEGF-antagonist
GWDECDVARMWEWECFAGV	1086	VEGF- antagonist
GERWCFDGPRAWVCGWEI	501	VEGF- antagonist
EELWCFDGPRAWVCGYVK	502	VEGF- antagonist
RGWVEICAADDYGRCLTEAQ	1031	VEGF- antagonist
RGWVEICESDVWGRCL	1087	VEGF- antagonist
RGWVEICESDVWGRCL	1088	VEGF- antagonist
GGNECDIARMWEWECFERL	1089	VEGF- antagonist
RGWVEICAADDYGRCL	1090	VEGF-antagonist
CTTHWGFTLC	1028	MMP inhibitor
CLRSGXGC	1091	MMP inhibitor
CXXHWGFXXC	1092	MMP inhibitor
CXPXC	1093	MMP inhibitor
CRRHWGFEFC	1094	MMP inhibitor
STTHWGFTLS	1095	MMP inhibitor
CSLHWGFWWC	1096	CTLA4-mimetic
GFVCSGIFAVGVGRC	125	CTLA4-mimetic
APGVRLGCAVLGRYC	126	CTLA4-mimetic
LLGRMK	105	Antiviral (HBV)
ICVVQDWGHHRCTAGHMANLTSHASAI	127	C3b antagonist
ICVVQDWGHHRCT	128	C3b antagonist
CVVQDWGHHAC	129	C3b antagonist
STGGFDDVYDWARGVSSALTTTLVATR	185	Vinculin-binding
STGGFDDVYDWARRVSSALTTTLVATR	186	Vinculin-binding
SRGVNFSEWLYDMSAAMKEASNVFPSRRSR	187	Vinculin-binding
SSQNWDMEAGVEDLTAAMLGLLSTIHSSSR	188	Vinculin-binding
SSPSLYTQFLVNYESAATRIQDILLIASRPSR	189	Vinculin-binding
SSTGWVDLLGALQRAADATRTSIPPSLQNSR	190	Vinculin-binding
DVYTKKELIECARRVSEK	191	Vinculin-binding
EKGSYYPGSGIAQFHIDYNNVS	192	C4BP-binding
SGIAQFHIDYNNVSSAEGWHVN	193	C4BP-binding
LVTVEKGSYYPGSGIAQFHIDYNNVSSAEGWHVN	194	C4BP-binding
SGIAQFHIDYNNVS	195	C4BP-binding
LLGRMK	279	anti-HBV
ALLGRMKG	280	anti-HBV
LDPAFR	281	anti-HBV
CXXRGDC	322	Inhibition of platelet aggregation
RPLPPLP	323	Src antagonist
PPVPPR	324	Src antagonist
XFDXWXXLXX	325	Anti-cancer (particularly for

		sarcomas)
KACRRLFGPVDSEQLSRDCD	326	p16-mimetic
RERWNFDFVTETPLEGDFAW	327	p16-mimetic
KRRQTSMTDFYHSKRRLIFS	328	p16-mimetic
TSMTDFYHSKRRLIFSKRKP	329	p16-mimetic
RRLIF	330	p16-mimetic
KRRQTSATDFYHSKRRLIFSRQIKIWFQNRMMKWKK	331	p16-mimetic
KRRLIFSQRQIKIWFQNRMMKWKK	332	p16-mimetic
Asn Gln Gly Arg His Phe Cys Gly Gly Ala Leu Ile His Ala Arg Phe Val Met Thr Ala Ala Ser Cys Phe Gln	498	CAP37 mimetic/LPS binding
Arg His Phe Cys Gly Gly Ala Leu Ile His Ala Arg Phe Val Met Thr Ala Ala Ser Cys	499	CAP37 mimetic/LPS binding
Gly Thr Arg Cys Gln Val Ala Gly Trp Gly Ser Gln Arg Ser Gly Gly Arg Leu Ser Arg Phe Pro Arg Phe Val Asn Val	500	CAP37 mimetic/LPS binding
WHWRHRIPLQLAAGR	1097	carbohydrate (GD1 alpha) mimetic
LKTPRV	1098	β 2GPI Ab binding
NLTKTPRV	1099	β 2GPI Ab binding
NLTKTPRVGGC	1100	β 2GPI Ab binding
KDKATF	1101	β 2GPI Ab binding
KDKATFGCHD	1102	β 2GPI Ab binding
KDKATFGCHDGC	1103	β 2GPI Ab binding
TLRVYK	1104	β 2GPI Ab binding
ATLRVYKGG	1105	β 2GPI Ab binding
CATLRVYKGG	1106	β 2GPI Ab binding
INLKALAALAKKIL	1107	Membrane- transporting
GWT	NR	Membrane- transporting
GWTLNSAGYLLG	1108	Membrane- transporting
GWTLNSAGYLLGKINLKALAALAKKIL	1109	Membrane- transporting

The present invention is also particularly useful with peptides having activity in treatment of:

- cancer, wherein the peptide is a VEGF-mimetic or a VEGF receptor antagonist, a HER2 agonist or antagonist, a CD20 antagonist and the like;
- asthma, wherein the protein of interest is a CKR3 antagonist, an IL-5 receptor antagonist, and the like;
- thrombosis, wherein the protein of interest is a GPIIb antagonist, a GPIIIa antagonist, and the like;

- autoimmune diseases and other conditions involving immune modulation, wherein the protein of interest is an IL-2 receptor antagonist, a CD40 agonist or antagonist, a CD40L agonist or antagonist, a thymopoietin mimetic and the like.

5 Vehicles. This invention requires the presence of at least one vehicle (F¹, F²) attached to a peptide through the N-terminus, C-terminus or a sidechain of one of the amino acid residues. Multiple vehicles may also be used; e.g., Fc's at each terminus or an Fc at a terminus and a PEG group at the other terminus or a sidechain.

10 An Fc domain is the preferred vehicle. The Fc domain may be fused to the N or C termini of the peptides or at both the N and C termini. For the TPO-mimetic peptides, molecules having the Fc domain fused to the N terminus of the peptide portion of the molecule are more bioactive than other such fusions, so fusion to the N terminus is preferred.

15 As noted above, Fc variants are suitable vehicles within the scope of this invention. A native Fc may be extensively modified to form an Fc variant in accordance with this invention, provided binding to the salvage receptor is maintained; see, for example WO 97/34631 and WO 96/32478. In such Fc variants, one may remove one or more sites of a native Fc that
20 provide structural features or functional activity not required by the fusion molecules of this invention. One may remove these sites by, for example, substituting or deleting residues, inserting residues into the site, or truncating portions containing the site. The inserted or substituted residues may also be altered amino acids, such as peptidomimetics or D-
25 amino acids. Fc variants may be desirable for a number of reasons, several of which are described below. Exemplary Fc variants include molecules and sequences in which:

1. Sites involved in disulfide bond formation are removed. Such removal may avoid reaction with other cysteine-containing proteins present in

- the host cell used to produce the molecules of the invention. For this purpose, the cysteine-containing segment at the N-terminus may be truncated or cysteine residues may be deleted or substituted with other amino acids (e.g., alanyl, seryl). In particular, one may truncate the N-terminal 20-amino acid segment of SEQ ID NO: 2 or delete or substitute the cysteine residues at positions 7 and 10 of SEQ ID NO: 2. Even when cysteine residues are removed, the single chain Fc domains can still form a dimeric Fc domain that is held together non-covalently.
2. A native Fc is modified to make it more compatible with a selected host cell. For example, one may remove the PA sequence near the N-terminus of a typical native Fc, which may be recognized by a digestive enzyme in E. coli such as proline iminopeptidase. One may also add an N-terminal methionine residue, especially when the molecule is expressed recombinantly in a bacterial cell such as E. coli. The Fc domain of SEQ ID NO: 2 (Figure 4) is one such Fc variant.
 3. A portion of the N-terminus of a native Fc is removed to prevent N-terminal heterogeneity when expressed in a selected host cell. For this purpose, one may delete any of the first 20 amino acid residues at the N-terminus, particularly those at positions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.
 4. One or more glycosylation sites are removed. Residues that are typically glycosylated (e.g., asparagine) may confer cytolytic response. Such residues may be deleted or substituted with unglycosylated residues (e.g., alanine).
 5. Sites involved in interaction with complement, such as the C1q binding site, are removed. For example, one may delete or substitute the EKK sequence of human IgG1. Complement recruitment may not be advantageous for the molecules of this invention and so may be avoided with such an Fc variant.

6. Sites are removed that affect binding to Fc receptors other than a salvage receptor. A native Fc may have sites for interaction with certain white blood cells that are not required for the fusion molecules of the present invention and so may be removed.
- 5 7. The ADCC site is removed. ADCC sites are known in the art; see, for example, Molec. Immunol. 29 (5): 633-9 (1992) with regard to ADCC sites in IgG1. These sites, as well, are not required for the fusion molecules of the present invention and so may be removed.
8. When the native Fc is derived from a non-human antibody, the native
10 Fc may be humanized. Typically, to humanize a native Fc, one will substitute selected residues in the non-human native Fc with residues that are normally found in human native Fc. Techniques for antibody humanization are well known in the art.

Preferred Fc variants include the following. In SEQ ID NO: 2
15 (Figure 4) the leucine at position 15 may be substituted with glutamate; the glutamate at position 99, with alanine; and the lysines at positions 101 and 103, with alanines. In addition, one or more tyrosine residues can be replaced by phenylalanine residues.

An alternative vehicle would be a protein, polypeptide, peptide,
20 antibody, antibody fragment, , or small molecule (e.g., a peptidomimetic compound) capable of binding to a salvage receptor. For example, one could use as a vehicle a polypeptide as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,739,277, issued April 14, 1998 to Presta et al. Peptides could also be selected by phage display for binding to the FcRn salvage receptor. Such salvage
25 receptor-binding compounds are also included within the meaning of "vehicle" and are within the scope of this invention. Such vehicles should be selected for increased half-life (e.g., by avoiding sequences recognized by proteases) and decreased immunogenicity (e.g., by favoring non-immunogenic sequences, as discovered in antibody humanization).

As noted above, polymer vehicles may also be used for F¹ and F². Various means for attaching chemical moieties useful as vehicles are currently available, see, e.g., Patent Cooperation Treaty ("PCT") International Publication No. WO 96/11953, entitled "N-Terminally
5 Chemically Modified Protein Compositions and Methods," herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. This PCT publication discloses, among other things, the selective attachment of water soluble polymers to the N-terminus of proteins.

A preferred polymer vehicle is polyethylene glycol (PEG). The PEG
10 group may be of any convenient molecular weight and may be linear or branched. The average molecular weight of the PEG will preferably range from about 2 kiloDalton ("kD") to about 100 kDa, more preferably from about 5 kDa to about 50 kDa, most preferably from about 5 kDa to about 10 kDa. The PEG groups will generally be attached to the compounds of
15 the invention via acylation or reductive alkylation through a reactive group on the PEG moiety (e.g., an aldehyde, amino, thiol, or ester group) to a reactive group on the inventive compound (e.g., an aldehyde, amino, or ester group).

A useful strategy for the PEGylation of synthetic peptides consists
20 of combining, through forming a conjugate linkage in solution, a peptide and a PEG moiety, each bearing a special functionality that is mutually reactive toward the other. The peptides can be easily prepared with conventional solid phase synthesis (see, for example, Figures 5 and 6 and the accompanying text herein). The peptides are "preactivated" with an
25 appropriate functional group at a specific site. The precursors are purified and fully characterized prior to reacting with the PEG moiety. Ligation of the peptide with PEG usually takes place in aqueous phase and can be easily monitored by reverse phase analytical HPLC. The PEGylated peptides can be easily purified by preparative HPLC and characterized by

analytical HPLC, amino acid analysis and laser desorption mass spectrometry.

Polysaccharide polymers are another type of water soluble polymer which may be used for protein modification. Dextran is polysaccharide polymers comprised of individual subunits of glucose predominantly linked by α 1-6 linkages. The dextran itself is available in many molecular weight ranges, and is readily available in molecular weights from about 1 kD to about 70 kD. Dextran is a suitable water soluble polymer for use in the present invention as a vehicle by itself or in combination with another vehicle (e.g., Fc). See, for example, WO 96/11953 and WO 96/05309. The use of dextran conjugated to therapeutic or diagnostic immunoglobulins has been reported; see, for example, European Patent Publication No. 0 315 456, which is hereby incorporated by reference. Dextran of about 1 kD to about 20 kD is preferred when dextran is used as a vehicle in accordance with the present invention.

Linkers. Any "linker" group is optional. When present, its chemical structure is not critical, since it serves primarily as a spacer. The linker is preferably made up of amino acids linked together by peptide bonds. Thus, in preferred embodiments, the linker is made up of from 1 to 20 amino acids linked by peptide bonds, wherein the amino acids are selected from the 20 naturally occurring amino acids. Some of these amino acids may be glycosylated, as is well understood by those in the art. In a more preferred embodiment, the 1 to 20 amino acids are selected from glycine, alanine, proline, asparagine, glutamine, and lysine. Even more preferably, a linker is made up of a majority of amino acids that are sterically unhindered, such as glycine and alanine. Thus, preferred linkers are polyglycines (particularly (Gly)₄, (Gly)₅), poly(Gly-Ala), and polyalanines. Other specific examples of linkers are:

(Gly)₃Lys(Gly)₄ (SEQ ID NO: 333);

(Gly)₃AsnGlySer(Gly)₂ (SEQ ID NO: 334);

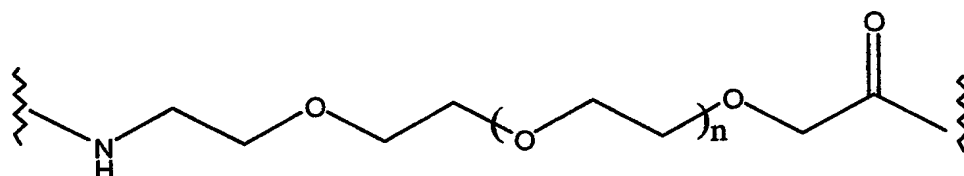
(Gly)₃Cys(Gly)₄ (SEQ ID NO: 335); and

GlyProAsnGlyGly (SEQ ID NO: 336).

To explain the above nomenclature, for example, (Gly)₃Lys(Gly)₄ means
 5 Gly-Gly-Gly-Lys-Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly. Combinations of Gly and Ala are also preferred. The linkers shown here are exemplary; linkers within the scope of this invention may be much longer and may include other residues.

Non-peptide linkers are also possible. For example, alkyl linkers such as -NH-(CH₂)_s-C(O)-, wherein s = 2-20 could be used. These alkyl
 10 linkers may further be substituted by any non-sterically hindering group such as lower alkyl (e.g., C₁-C₆) lower acyl, halogen (e.g., Cl, Br), CN, NH₂, phenyl, etc. An exemplary non-peptide linker is a PEG linker,

VI



15

wherein n is such that the linker has a molecular weight of 100 to 5000 kD, preferably 100 to 500 kD. The peptide linkers may be altered to form derivatives in the same manner as described above.

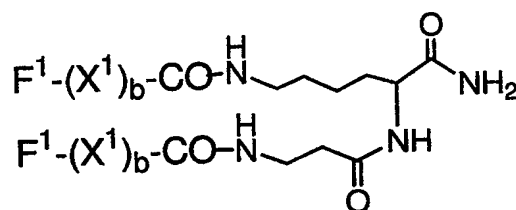
Derivatives. The inventors also contemplate derivatizing the
 20 peptide and/or vehicle portion of the compounds. Such derivatives may improve the solubility, absorption, biological half life, and the like of the compounds. The moieties may alternatively eliminate or attenuate any undesirable side-effect of the compounds and the like. Exemplary derivatives include compounds in which:

- 25 1. The compound or some portion thereof is cyclic. For example, the peptide portion may be modified to contain two or more Cys residues (e.g., in the linker), which could cyclize by disulfide bond formation.

For citations to references on preparation of cyclized derivatives, see Table 2.

2. The compound is cross-linked or is rendered capable of cross-linking between molecules. For example, the peptide portion may be modified to contain one Cys residue and thereby be able to form an intermolecular disulfide bond with a like molecule. The compound may also be cross-linked through its C-terminus, as in the molecule shown below.

VII



3. One or more peptidyl [-C(O)NR-] linkages (bonds) is replaced by a non-peptidyl linkage. Exemplary non-peptidyl linkages are -CH₂-carbamate [-CH₂-OC(O)NR-], phosphonate, -CH₂-sulfonamide [-CH₂-S(O)₂NR-], urea [-NHC(O)NH-], -CH₂-secondary amine, and alkylated peptide [-C(O)NR⁶- wherein R⁶ is lower alkyl].
4. The N-terminus is derivatized. Typically, the N-terminus may be acylated or modified to a substituted amine. Exemplary N-terminal derivative groups include -NRR¹ (other than -NH₂), -NRC(O)R¹, -NRC(O)OR¹, -NRS(O)₂R¹, -NHC(O)NHR¹, succinimide, or benzyloxycarbonyl-NH- (CBZ-NH-), wherein R and R¹ are each independently hydrogen or lower alkyl and wherein the phenyl ring may be substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, chloro, and bromo.
5. The free C-terminus is derivatized. Typically, the C-terminus is esterified or amidated. For example, one may use methods described in the art to add (NH-CH₂-CH₂-NH₂)₂ to compounds of this invention

having any of SEQ ID NOS: 504 to 508 at the C-terminus. Likewise, one may use methods described in the art to add $-NH_2$ to compounds of this invention having any of SEQ ID NOS: 924 to 955, 963 to 972, 1005 to 1013, or 1018 to 1023 at the C-terminus. Exemplary C-terminal derivative groups include, for example, $-C(O)R^2$ wherein R^2 is lower alkoxy or $-NR^3R^4$ wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently hydrogen or C_1 - C_8 alkyl (preferably C_1 - C_4 alkyl).

7. A disulfide bond is replaced with another, preferably more stable, cross-linking moiety (e.g., an alkylene). See, e.g., Bhatnagar *et al.* (1996), *J. Med. Chem.* 39: 3814-9; Alberts *et al.* (1993) *Thirteenth Am. Pep. Symp.*, 357-9.

8. One or more individual amino acid residues is modified. Various derivatizing agents are known to react specifically with selected sidechains or terminal residues, as described in detail below.

15 Lysinyl residues and amino terminal residues may be reacted with succinic or other carboxylic acid anhydrides, which reverse the charge of the lysinyl residues. Other suitable reagents for derivatizing alpha-amino-containing residues include imidoesters such as methyl picolinimide; pyridoxal phosphate; pyridoxal; chloroborohydride; trinitrobenzenesulfonic acid; O-methylisourea; 2,4 pentanedione; and transaminase-catalyzed reaction
20 with glyoxylate.

Arginyl residues may be modified by reaction with any one or combination of several conventional reagents, including phenylglyoxal, 2,3-butanedione, 1,2-cyclohexanedione, and ninhydrin. Derivatization of arginyl
25 residues requires that the reaction be performed in alkaline conditions because of the high pKa of the guanidine functional group. Furthermore, these reagents may react with the groups of lysine as well as the arginine epsilon-amino group.

Specific modification of tyrosyl residues has been studied extensively, with particular interest in introducing spectral labels into tyrosyl residues by reaction with aromatic diazonium compounds or tetranitromethane. Most commonly, N-acetylimidazole and tetranitromethane are used to form O-acetyl tyrosyl species and 3-nitro derivatives, respectively.

Carboxyl sidechain groups (aspartyl or glutamyl) may be selectively modified by reaction with carbodiimides ($R'-N=C=N-R'$) such as 1-cyclohexyl-3-(2-morpholinyl-(4-ethyl) carbodiimide or 1-ethyl-3-(4-azonia-4,4-dimethylpentyl) carbodiimide. Furthermore, aspartyl and glutamyl residues may be converted to asparaginyl and glutaminyl residues by reaction with ammonium ions.

Glutaminyl and asparaginyl residues may be deamidated to the corresponding glutamyl and aspartyl residues. Alternatively, these residues are deamidated under mildly acidic conditions. Either form of these residues falls within the scope of this invention.

Cysteiny residues can be replaced by amino acid residues or other moieties either to eliminate disulfide bonding or, conversely, to stabilize cross-linking. See, e.g., Bhatnagar *et al.* (1996), *J. Med. Chem.* 39: 3814-9.

Derivatization with bifunctional agents is useful for cross-linking the peptides or their functional derivatives to a water-insoluble support matrix or to other macromolecular vehicles. Commonly used cross-linking agents include, e.g., 1,1-bis(diazoacetyl)-2-phenylethane, glutaraldehyde, N-hydroxysuccinimide esters, for example, esters with 4-azidosalicylic acid, homobifunctional imidoesters, including disuccinimidyl esters such as 3,3'-dithiobis(succinimidylpropionate), and bifunctional maleimides such as bis-N-maleimido-1,8-octane. Derivatizing agents such as methyl-3-[(p-azidophenyl)dithiol]propioimide yield photoactivatable intermediates that are capable of forming crosslinks in the presence of light. Alternatively, reactive water-insoluble matrices such as cyanogen bromide-activated carbohydrates

and the reactive substrates described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,969,287; 3,691,016; 4,195,128; 4,247,642; 4,229,537; and 4,330,440 are employed for protein immobilization.

Carbohydrate (oligosaccharide) groups may conveniently be attached to sites that are known to be glycosylation sites in proteins. Generally, O-linked oligosaccharides are attached to serine (Ser) or threonine (Thr) residues while N-linked oligosaccharides are attached to asparagine (Asn) residues when they are part of the sequence Asn-X-Ser/Thr, where X can be any amino acid except proline. X is preferably one of the 19 naturally occurring amino acids other than proline. The structures of N-linked and O-linked oligosaccharides and the sugar residues found in each type are different. One type of sugar that is commonly found on both is N-acetylneuraminic acid (referred to as sialic acid). Sialic acid is usually the terminal residue of both N-linked and O-linked oligosaccharides and, by virtue of its negative charge, may confer acidic properties to the glycosylated compound. Such site(s) may be incorporated in the linker of the compounds of this invention and are preferably glycosylated by a cell during recombinant production of the polypeptide compounds (e.g., in mammalian cells such as CHO, BHK, COS). However, such sites may further be glycosylated by synthetic or semi-synthetic procedures known in the art.

Other possible modifications include hydroxylation of proline and lysine, phosphorylation of hydroxyl groups of seryl or threonyl residues, oxidation of the sulfur atom in Cys, methylation of the alpha-amino groups of lysine, arginine, and histidine side chains. Creighton, Proteins: Structure and Molecule Properties (W. H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco), pp. 79-86 (1983).

Compounds of the present invention may be changed at the DNA level, as well. The DNA sequence of any portion of the compound may be

changed to codons more compatible with the chosen host cell. For E. coli, which is the preferred host cell, optimized codons are known in the art. Codons may be substituted to eliminate restriction sites or to include silent restriction sites, which may aid in processing of the DNA in the selected
5 host cell. The vehicle, linker and peptide DNA sequences may be modified to include any of the foregoing sequence changes.

Methods of Making

The compounds of this invention largely may be made in transformed host cells using recombinant DNA techniques. To do so, a
10 recombinant DNA molecule coding for the peptide is prepared. Methods of preparing such DNA molecules are well known in the art. For instance, sequences coding for the peptides could be excised from DNA using suitable restriction enzymes. Alternatively, the DNA molecule could be synthesized using chemical synthesis techniques, such as the
15 phosphoramidate method. Also, a combination of these techniques could be used.

The invention also includes a vector capable of expressing the peptides in an appropriate host. The vector comprises the DNA molecule that codes for the peptides operatively linked to appropriate expression
20 control sequences. Methods of effecting this operative linking, either before or after the DNA molecule is inserted into the vector, are well known. Expression control sequences include promoters, activators, enhancers, operators, ribosomal binding sites, start signals, stop signals, cap signals, polyadenylation signals, and other signals involved with the
25 control of transcription or translation.

The resulting vector having the DNA molecule thereon is used to transform an appropriate host. This transformation may be performed using methods well known in the art.

Any of a large number of available and well-known host cells may be used in the practice of this invention. The selection of a particular host is dependent upon a number of factors recognized by the art. These include, for example, compatibility with the chosen expression vector, toxicity of the peptides encoded by the DNA molecule, rate of transformation, ease of recovery of the peptides, expression characteristics, bio-safety and costs. A balance of these factors must be struck with the understanding that not all hosts may be equally effective for the expression of a particular DNA sequence. Within these general guidelines, useful microbial hosts include bacteria (such as E. coli sp.), yeast (such as Saccharomyces sp.) and other fungi, insects, plants, mammalian (including human) cells in culture, or other hosts known in the art.

Next, the transformed host is cultured and purified. Host cells may be cultured under conventional fermentation conditions so that the desired compounds are expressed. Such fermentation conditions are well known in the art. Finally, the peptides are purified from culture by methods well known in the art.

The compounds may also be made by synthetic methods. For example, solid phase synthesis techniques may be used. Suitable techniques are well known in the art, and include those described in Merrifield (1973), Chem. Polypeptides, pp. 335-61 (Katsoyannis and Panayotis eds.); Merrifield (1963), J. Am. Chem. Soc. 85: 2149; Davis et al. (1985), Biochem. Intl. 10: 394-414; Stewart and Young (1969), Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis; U.S. Pat. No. 3,941,763; Finn et al. (1976), The Proteins (3rd ed.) 2: 105-253; and Erickson et al. (1976), The Proteins (3rd ed.) 2: 257-527. Solid phase synthesis is the preferred technique of making individual peptides since it is the most cost-effective method of making small peptides.

Compounds that contain derivatized peptides or which contain non-peptide groups may be synthesized by well-known organic chemistry techniques.

Uses of the Compounds

In general. The compounds of this invention have pharmacologic activity resulting from their ability to bind to proteins of interest as agonists, mimetics or antagonists of the native ligands of such proteins of interest. The utility of specific compounds is shown in Table 2. The activity of these compounds can be measured by assays known in the art. For the TPO-mimetic and EPO-mimetic compounds, in vivo assays are further described in the Examples section herein.

In addition to therapeutic uses, the compounds of the present invention are useful in diagnosing diseases characterized by dysfunction of their associated protein of interest. In one embodiment, a method of detecting in a biological sample a protein of interest (e.g., a receptor) that is capable of being activated comprising the steps of: (a) contacting the sample with a compound of this invention; and (b) detecting activation of the protein of interest by the compound. The biological samples include tissue specimens, intact cells, or extracts thereof. The compounds of this invention may be used as part of a diagnostic kit to detect the presence of their associated proteins of interest in a biological sample. Such kits employ the compounds of the invention having an attached label to allow for detection. The compounds are useful for identifying normal or abnormal proteins of interest. For the EPO-mimetic compounds, for example, presence of abnormal protein of interest in a biological sample may be indicative of such disorders as Diamond Blackfan anemia, where it is believed that the EPO receptor is dysfunctional.

Therapeutic uses of EPO-mimetic compounds. The EPO-mimetic compounds of the invention are useful for treating disorders characterized by low red blood cell levels. Included in the invention are methods of modulating the endogenous activity of an EPO receptor in a mammal, preferably methods of increasing the activity of an EPO receptor. In

general, any condition treatable by erythropoietin, such as anemia, may also be treated by the EPO-mimetic compounds of the invention. These compounds are administered by an amount and route of delivery that is appropriate for the nature and severity of the condition being treated and
5 may be ascertained by one skilled in the art. Preferably, administration is by injection, either subcutaneous, intramuscular, or intravenous.

Therapeutic uses of TPO-mimetic compounds. For the TPO-mimetic compounds, one can utilize such standard assays as those described in WO95/26746 entitled "Compositions and Methods for
10 Stimulating Megakaryocyte Growth and Differentiation". In vivo assays also appear in the Examples hereinafter.

The conditions to be treated are generally those that involve an existing megakaryocyte/platelet deficiency or an expected megakaryocyte/platelet deficiency (e.g., because of planned surgery or
15 platelet donation). Such conditions will usually be the result of a deficiency (temporary or permanent) of active Mpl ligand in vivo. The generic term for platelet deficiency is thrombocytopenia, and hence the methods and compositions of the present invention are generally available for treating thrombocytopenia in patients in need thereof.

20 Thrombocytopenia (platelet deficiencies) may be present for various reasons, including chemotherapy and other therapy with a variety of drugs, radiation therapy, surgery, accidental blood loss, and other specific disease conditions. Exemplary specific disease conditions that involve thrombocytopenia and may be treated in accordance with this
25 invention are: aplastic anemia, idiopathic thrombocytopenia, metastatic tumors which result in thrombocytopenia, systemic lupus erythematosus, splenomegaly, Fanconi's syndrome, vitamin B12 deficiency; folic acid deficiency, May-Hegglin anomaly, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome, and paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria. Also, certain treatments for AIDS

result in thrombocytopenia (e.g., AZT). Certain wound healing disorders might also benefit from an increase in platelet numbers.

With regard to anticipated platelet deficiencies, e.g., due to future surgery, a compound of the present invention could be administered
5 several days to several hours prior to the need for platelets. With regard to acute situations, e.g., accidental and massive blood loss, a compound of this invention could be administered along with blood or purified platelets.

The TPO-mimetic compounds of this invention may also be useful in
10 stimulating certain cell types other than megakaryocytes if such cells are found to express Mpl receptor. Conditions associated with such cells that express the Mpl receptor, which are responsive to stimulation by the Mpl ligand, are also within the scope of this invention.

The TPO-mimetic compounds of this invention may be used in any
15 situation in which production of platelets or platelet precursor cells is desired, or in which stimulation of the c-Mpl receptor is desired. Thus, for example, the compounds of this invention may be used to treat any condition in a mammal wherein there is a need of platelets, megakaryocytes, and the like. Such conditions are described in detail in the following exemplary sources:
20 WO95/26746; WO95/21919; WO95/18858; WO95/21920 and are incorporated herein.

The TPO-mimetic compounds of this invention may also be useful in maintaining the viability or storage life of platelets and/or megakaryocytes and related cells. Accordingly, it could be useful to include an effective amount of
25 one or more such compounds in a composition containing such cells.

The therapeutic methods, compositions and compounds of the present invention may also be employed, alone or in combination with other cytokines, soluble Mpl receptor, hematopoietic factors, interleukins, growth factors or antibodies in the treatment of disease states

characterized by other symptoms as well as platelet deficiencies. It is anticipated that the inventive compound will prove useful in treating some forms of thrombocytopenia in combination with general stimulators of hematopoiesis, such as IL-3 or GM-CSF. Other megakaryocytic stimulatory factors, i.e., meg-CSF, stem cell factor (SCF), leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF), oncostatin M (OSM), or other molecules with megakaryocyte stimulating activity may also be employed with Mpl ligand. Additional exemplary cytokines or hematopoietic factors for such co-administration include IL-1 alpha, IL-1 beta, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-11, colony stimulating factor-1 (CSF-1), SCF, GM-CSF, granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), EPO, interferon-alpha (IFN-alpha), consensus interferon, IFN-beta, or IFN-gamma. It may further be useful to administer, either simultaneously or sequentially, an effective amount of a soluble mammalian Mpl receptor, which appears to have an effect of causing megakaryocytes to fragment into platelets once the megakaryocytes have reached mature form. Thus, administration of an inventive compound (to enhance the number of mature megakaryocytes) followed by administration of the soluble Mpl receptor (to inactivate the ligand and allow the mature megakaryocytes to produce platelets) is expected to be a particularly effective means of stimulating platelet production. The dosage recited above would be adjusted to compensate for such additional components in the therapeutic composition. Progress of the treated patient can be monitored by conventional methods.

In cases where the inventive compounds are added to compositions of platelets and/or megakaryocytes and related cells, the amount to be included will generally be ascertained experimentally by techniques and assays known in the art. An exemplary range of amounts is 0.1 μ g—1 mg inventive compound per 10^6 cells.

Pharmaceutical Compositions

In General. The present invention also provides methods of using pharmaceutical compositions of the inventive compounds. Such pharmaceutical compositions may be for administration for injection, or for oral, pulmonary, nasal, transdermal or other forms of administration. In general, the invention encompasses pharmaceutical compositions comprising effective amounts of a compound of the invention together with pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, preservatives, solubilizers, emulsifiers, adjuvants and/or carriers. Such compositions include diluents of various buffer content (*e.g.*, Tris-HCl, acetate, phosphate), pH and ionic strength; additives such as detergents and solubilizing agents (*e.g.*, Tween 80, Polysorbate 80), anti-oxidants (*e.g.*, ascorbic acid, sodium metabisulfite), preservatives (*e.g.*, Thimersol, benzyl alcohol) and bulking substances (*e.g.*, lactose, mannitol); incorporation of the material into particulate preparations of polymeric compounds such as polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, etc. or into liposomes. Hyaluronic acid may also be used, and this may have the effect of promoting sustained duration in the circulation. Such compositions may influence the physical state, stability, rate of in vivo release, and rate of in vivo clearance of the present proteins and derivatives. See, *e.g.*, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th Ed. (1990, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA 18042) pages 1435-1712 which are herein incorporated by reference. The compositions may be prepared in liquid form, or may be in dried powder, such as lyophilized form. Implantable sustained release formulations are also contemplated, as are transdermal formulations.

Oral dosage forms. Contemplated for use herein are oral solid dosage forms, which are described generally in Chapter 89 of Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (1990), 18th Ed., Mack Publishing Co. Easton PA 18042, which is herein incorporated by reference. Solid dosage forms include tablets, capsules, pills, troches or lozenges, cachets or pellets. Also,

liposomal or proteinoid encapsulation may be used to formulate the present compositions (as, for example, proteinoid microspheres reported in U.S. Patent No. 4,925,673). Liposomal encapsulation may be used and the liposomes may be derivatized with various polymers (e.g., U.S. Patent
5 No. 5,013,556). A description of possible solid dosage forms for the therapeutic is given in Chapter 10 of Marshall, K., Modern Pharmaceutics (1979), edited by G. S. Banker and C. T. Rhodes, herein incorporated by reference. In general, the formulation will include the inventive compound, and inert ingredients which allow for protection against the
10 stomach environment, and release of the biologically active material in the intestine.

Also specifically contemplated are oral dosage forms of the above inventive compounds. If necessary, the compounds may be chemically modified so that oral delivery is efficacious. Generally, the chemical
15 modification contemplated is the attachment of at least one moiety to the compound molecule itself, where said moiety permits (a) inhibition of proteolysis; and (b) uptake into the blood stream from the stomach or intestine. Also desired is the increase in overall stability of the compound and increase in circulation time in the body. Moieties useful as covalently
20 attached vehicles in this invention may also be used for this purpose. Examples of such moieties include: PEG, copolymers of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol, carboxymethyl cellulose, dextran, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and polyproline. See, for example, Abuchowski and Davis, Soluble Polymer-Enzyme Adducts, Enzymes as Drugs (1981),
25 Hocenberg and Roberts, eds., Wiley-Interscience, New York, NY, , pp 367-83; Newmark, et al. (1982), J. Appl. Biochem. 4:185-9. Other polymers that could be used are poly-1,3-dioxolane and poly-1,3,6-tioxocane. Preferred for pharmaceutical usage, as indicated above, are PEG moieties.

For oral delivery dosage forms, it is also possible to use a salt of a modified aliphatic amino acid, such as sodium N-(8-[2-hydroxybenzoyl] amino) caprylate (SNAC), as a carrier to enhance absorption of the therapeutic compounds of this invention. The clinical efficacy of a heparin
5 formulation using SNAC has been demonstrated in a Phase II trial conducted by Emisphere Technologies. See US Patent No. 5,792,451, "Oral drug delivery composition and methods".

The compounds of this invention can be included in the formulation as fine multiparticulates in the form of granules or pellets of
10 particle size about 1 mm. The formulation of the material for capsule administration could also be as a powder, lightly compressed plugs or even as tablets. The therapeutic could be prepared by compression.

Colorants and flavoring agents may all be included. For example, the protein (or derivative) may be formulated (such as by liposome or
15 microsphere encapsulation) and then further contained within an edible product, such as a refrigerated beverage containing colorants and flavoring agents.

One may dilute or increase the volume of the compound of the invention with an inert material. These diluents could include
20 carbohydrates, especially mannitol, α -lactose, anhydrous lactose, cellulose, sucrose, modified dextrans and starch. Certain inorganic salts may also be used as fillers including calcium triphosphate, magnesium carbonate and sodium chloride. Some commercially available diluents are Fast-Flo, Emdex, STA-Rx 1500, Emcompress and Avicell.

25 Disintegrants may be included in the formulation of the therapeutic into a solid dosage form. Materials used as disintegrants include but are not limited to starch including the commercial disintegrant based on starch, Explotab. Sodium starch glycolate, Amberlite, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, ultramylopectin, sodium alginate, gelatin, orange

peel, acid carboxymethyl cellulose, natural sponge and bentonite may all be used. Another form of the disintegrants are the insoluble cationic exchange resins. Powdered gums may be used as disintegrants and as binders and these can include powdered gums such as agar, Karaya or tragacanth. Alginic acid and its sodium salt are also useful as disintegrants.

Binders may be used to hold the therapeutic agent together to form a hard tablet and include materials from natural products such as acacia, tragacanth, starch and gelatin. Others include methyl cellulose (MC), ethyl cellulose (EC) and carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC). Polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) and hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC) could both be used in alcoholic solutions to granulate the therapeutic.

An antifrictional agent may be included in the formulation of the therapeutic to prevent sticking during the formulation process. Lubricants may be used as a layer between the therapeutic and the die wall, and these can include but are not limited to; stearic acid including its magnesium and calcium salts, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), liquid paraffin, vegetable oils and waxes. Soluble lubricants may also be used such as sodium lauryl sulfate, magnesium lauryl sulfate, polyethylene glycol of various molecular weights, Carbowax 4000 and 6000.

Glidants that might improve the flow properties of the drug during formulation and to aid rearrangement during compression might be added. The glidants may include starch, talc, pyrogenic silica and hydrated silicoaluminate.

To aid dissolution of the compound of this invention into the aqueous environment a surfactant might be added as a wetting agent. Surfactants may include anionic detergents such as sodium lauryl sulfate, dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate and dioctyl sodium sulfonate. Cationic detergents might be used and could include benzalkonium chloride or

benzethonium chloride. The list of potential nonionic detergents that could be included in the formulation as surfactants are lauromacrogol 400, polyoxyl 40 stearate, polyoxyethylene hydrogenated castor oil 10, 50 and 60, glycerol monostearate, polysorbate 40, 60, 65 and 80, sucrose fatty acid ester, methyl cellulose and carboxymethyl cellulose. These surfactants could be present in the formulation of the protein or derivative either alone or as a mixture in different ratios.

Additives may also be included in the formulation to enhance uptake of the compound. Additives potentially having this property are for instance the fatty acids oleic acid, linoleic acid and linolenic acid.

Controlled release formulation may be desirable. The compound of this invention could be incorporated into an inert matrix which permits release by either diffusion or leaching mechanisms e.g., gums. Slowly degenerating matrices may also be incorporated into the formulation, e.g., alginates, polysaccharides. Another form of a controlled release of the compounds of this invention is by a method based on the Oros therapeutic system (Alza Corp.), i.e., the drug is enclosed in a semipermeable membrane which allows water to enter and push drug out through a single small opening due to osmotic effects. Some enteric coatings also have a delayed release effect.

Other coatings may be used for the formulation. These include a variety of sugars which could be applied in a coating pan. The therapeutic agent could also be given in a film coated tablet and the materials used in this instance are divided into 2 groups. The first are the nonenteric materials and include methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, methylhydroxy-ethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl-methyl cellulose, sodium carboxy-methyl cellulose, providone and the polyethylene glycols. The second group consists of the enteric materials that are commonly esters of phthalic acid.

A mix of materials might be used to provide the optimum film coating. Film coating may be carried out in a pan coater or in a fluidized bed or by compression coating.

Pulmonary delivery forms. Also contemplated herein is pulmonary delivery of the present protein (or derivatives thereof). The protein (or derivative) is delivered to the lungs of a mammal while inhaling and traverses across the lung epithelial lining to the blood stream. (Other reports of this include Adjei et al., Pharma. Res. (1990) 7: 565-9; Adjei et al. (1990), Internatl. J. Pharmaceutics 63: 135-44 (leuprolide acetate); Braquet et al. (1989), J. Cardiovasc. Pharmacol. 13 (suppl.5): s.143-146 (endothelin-1); Hubbard et al. (1989), Annals Int. Med. 3: 206-12 (α 1-antitrypsin); Smith et al. (1989), J. Clin. Invest. 84: 1145-6 (α 1-proteinase); Oswein et al. (March 1990), "Aerosolization of Proteins", Proc. Symp. Resp. Drug Delivery II, Keystone, Colorado (recombinant human growth hormone); Debs et al. (1988), J. Immunol. 140: 3482-8 (interferon- γ and tumor necrosis factor α) and Platz et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,284,656 (granulocyte colony stimulating factor).

Contemplated for use in the practice of this invention are a wide range of mechanical devices designed for pulmonary delivery of therapeutic products, including but not limited to nebulizers, metered dose inhalers, and powder inhalers, all of which are familiar to those skilled in the art. Some specific examples of commercially available devices suitable for the practice of this invention are the Ultravent nebulizer, manufactured by Mallinckrodt, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri; the Acorn II nebulizer, manufactured by Marquest Medical Products, Englewood, Colorado; the Ventolin metered dose inhaler, manufactured by Glaxo Inc., Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; and the Spinhaler powder inhaler, manufactured by Fisons Corp., Bedford, Massachusetts.

All such devices require the use of formulations suitable for the dispensing of the inventive compound. Typically, each formulation is specific to the type of device employed and may involve the use of an appropriate propellant material, in addition to diluents, adjuvants and/or carriers useful in therapy.

The inventive compound should most advantageously be prepared in particulate form with an average particle size of less than 10 μm (or microns), most preferably 0.5 to 5 μm , for most effective delivery to the distal lung.

Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include carbohydrates such as trehalose, mannitol, xylitol, sucrose, lactose, and sorbitol. Other ingredients for use in formulations may include DPPC, DOPE, DSPC and DOPC. Natural or synthetic surfactants may be used. PEG may be used (even apart from its use in derivatizing the protein or analog). Dextran, such as cyclodextran, may be used. Bile salts and other related enhancers may be used. Cellulose and cellulose derivatives may be used. Amino acids may be used, such as use in a buffer formulation.

Also, the use of liposomes, microcapsules or microspheres, inclusion complexes, or other types of carriers is contemplated.

Formulations suitable for use with a nebulizer, either jet or ultrasonic, will typically comprise the inventive compound dissolved in water at a concentration of about 0.1 to 25 mg of biologically active protein per mL of solution. The formulation may also include a buffer and a simple sugar (e.g., for protein stabilization and regulation of osmotic pressure). The nebulizer formulation may also contain a surfactant, to reduce or prevent surface induced aggregation of the protein caused by atomization of the solution in forming the aerosol.

Formulations for use with a metered-dose inhaler device will generally comprise a finely divided powder containing the inventive

compound suspended in a propellant with the aid of a surfactant. The propellant may be any conventional material employed for this purpose, such as a chlorofluorocarbon, a hydrochlorofluorocarbon, a hydrofluorocarbon, or a hydrocarbon, including trichlorofluoromethane, dichlorodifluoromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethanol, and 1,1,1,2-
5 tetrafluoroethane, or combinations thereof. Suitable surfactants include sorbitan trioleate and soya lecithin. Oleic acid may also be useful as a surfactant.

Formulations for dispensing from a powder inhaler device will
10 comprise a finely divided dry powder containing the inventive compound and may also include a bulking agent, such as lactose, sorbitol, sucrose, mannitol, trehalose, or xylitol in amounts which facilitate dispersal of the powder from the device, e.g., 50 to 90% by weight of the formulation.

Nasal delivery forms. Nasal delivery of the inventive compound is
15 also contemplated. Nasal delivery allows the passage of the protein to the blood stream directly after administering the therapeutic product to the nose, without the necessity for deposition of the product in the lung. Formulations for nasal delivery include those with dextran or cyclodextran. Delivery via transport across other mucous membranes is
20 also contemplated.

Dosages. The dosage regimen involved in a method for treating the above-described conditions will be determined by the attending physician, considering various factors which modify the action of drugs, e.g. the age, condition, body weight, sex and diet of the patient, the severity of any infection,
25 time of administration and other clinical factors. Generally, the daily regimen should be in the range of 0.1-1000 micrograms of the inventive compound per kilogram of body weight, preferably 0.1-150 micrograms per kilogram.

Specific preferred embodiments

- The inventors have determined preferred peptide sequences for molecules having many different kinds of activity. The inventors have further determined preferred structures of these preferred peptides combined with preferred linkers and vehicles. Preferred structures for these preferred peptides listed in Table 21 below.

Table 21—Preferred embodiments

Sequence/structure	SEQ ID NO:	Activity
F ¹ -(G) ₅ -IEGPTLRQWLAARA-(G) ₈ -IEGPTLRQWLAARA	337	TPO-mimetic
IEGPTLRQWLAARA-(G) ₈ -IEGPTLRQWLAARA-(G) ₅ -F ¹	338	TPO-mimetic
F ¹ -(G) ₅ -IEGPTLRQWLAARA	1032	TPO-mimetic
IEGPTLRQWLAARA -(G) ₅ -F ¹	1033	TPO-mimetic
F ¹ -(G) ₅ -GGTYSCHFGPLTWVCKPQGG-(G) ₄ -GGTYSCHFGPLTWVCKPQGG	339	EPO-mimetic
GGTYSCHFGPLTWVCKPQGG-(G) ₄ -GGTYSCHFGPLTWVCKPQGG-(G) ₅ -F ¹	340	EPO-mimetic
GGTYSCHFGPLTWVCKPQGG-(G) ₅ -F ¹	1034	EPO-mimetic
F ¹ -(G) ₅ -DFLPHYKNTSLGHRP	1045	TNF- α inhibitor
DFLPHYKNTSLGHRP-(G) ₅ -F ¹	1046	TNF- α inhibitor
F ¹ -(G) ₅ -FEWTPGYWQPYALPL	1047	IL-1 R antagonist
FEWTPGYWQPYALPL-(G) ₅ -F ¹	1048	IL-1 R antagonist
F ¹ -(G) ₅ -VEPNCDIHVMWEWECFERL	1049	VEGF-antagonist
VEPNCDIHVMWEWECFERL-(G) ₅ -F ¹	1050	VEGF-antagonist
F ¹ -(G) ₅ -CTTHWGFTLC	1051	MMP inhibitor
CTTHWGFTLC-(G) ₅ -F ¹	1052	MMP inhibitor

"F¹" is an Fc domain as defined previously herein.

Working examples

The compounds described above may be prepared as described below. These examples comprise preferred embodiments of the invention and are illustrative rather than limiting.

Example 1

TPO-Mimetics

5

The following example uses peptides identified by the numbers appearing in Table A hereinafter.

Preparation of peptide 19. Peptide 17b (12 mg) and MeO-PEG-SH 5000 (30 mg, 2 equiv.) were dissolved in 1 ml aqueous buffer (pH 8). The mixture was incubated at RT for about 30 minutes and the reaction was checked by analytical HPLC, which showed a > 80% completion of the reaction. The pegylated material was isolated by preparative HPLC.

Preparation of peptide 20. Peptide 18 (14 mg) and MeO-PEG-maleimide (25 mg) were dissolved in about 1.5 ml aqueous buffer (pH 8). The mixture was incubated at RT for about 30 minutes, at which time about 70% transformation was complete as monitored with analytical HPLC by applying an aliquot of sample to the HPLC column. The pegylated material was purified by preparative HPLC.

Bioactivity assay. The TPO *in vitro* bioassay is a mitogenic assay utilizing an IL-3 dependent clone of murine 32D cells that have been transfected with human mpl receptor. This assay is described in greater detail in WO 95/26746. Cells are maintained in MEM medium containing 10% Fetal Clone II and 1 ng/ml mIL-3. Prior to sample addition, cells are prepared by rinsing twice with growth medium lacking mIL-3. An extended twelve point TPO standard curve is prepared, ranging from 33 to 39 pg/ml. Four dilutions, estimated to fall within the linear portion of the standard curve, (100 to 125 pg/ml), are prepared for each sample and run in triplicate. A volume of 100 µl of each dilution of sample or standard is added to appropriate wells of a 96 well microtiter plate

containing 10,000 cells/well. After forty-four hours at 37 °C and 10% CO₂, MTS (a tetrazolium compound which is bio-reduced by cells to a formazan) is added to each well. Approximately six hours later, the optical density is read on a plate reader at 490 nm. A dose response curve (log TPO concentration vs. O.D.- Background) is generated and linear regression analysis of points which fall in the linear portion of the standard curve is performed. Concentrations of unknown test samples are determined using the resulting linear equation and a correction for the dilution factor.

TMP tandem repeats with polyglycine linkers. Our design of sequentially linked TMP repeats was based on the assumption that a dimeric form of TMP was required for its effective interaction with c-Mpl (the TPO receptor) and that depending on how they were wound up against each other in the receptor context, the two TMP molecules could be tethered together in the C- to N-terminus configuration in a way that would not perturb the global dimeric conformation. Clearly, the success of the design of tandem linked repeats depends on proper selection of the length and composition of the linker that joins the C- and N-termini of the two sequentially aligned TMP monomers. Since no structural information of the TMP bound to c-Mpl was available, a series of repeated peptides with linkers composed of 0 to 10 and 14 glycine residues (Table A) were synthesized. Glycine was chosen because of its simplicity and flexibility, based on the rationale that a flexible polyglycine peptide chain might allow for the free folding of the two tethered TMP repeats into the required conformation, while other amino acid sequences may adopt undesired secondary structures whose rigidity might disrupt the correct packing of the repeated peptide in the receptor context.

The resulting peptides are readily accessible by conventional solid phase peptide synthesis methods (Merrifield (1963), J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 85: 2149) with either Fmoc or t-Boc chemistry. Unlike the synthesis of the

C-terminally linked parallel dimer which required the use of an orthogonally protected lysine residue as the initial branch point to build the two peptide chains in a pseudosymmetrical way (Cwirla et al. (1997), Science 276: 1696-9), the synthesis of these tandem repeats was a straightforward, stepwise assembly of the continuous peptide chains from the C- to N-terminus. Since dimerization of TMP had a more dramatic effect on the proliferative activity than binding affinity as shown for the C-terminal dimer (Cwirla et al. (1997)), the synthetic peptides were tested directly for biological activity in a TPO-dependent cell-proliferation assay using an IL-3 dependent clone of murine 32D cells transfected with the full-length c-Mpl (Palacios et al., Cell 41:727 (1985)). As the test results showed, all the polyglycine linked tandem repeats demonstrated >1000 fold increases in potency as compared to the monomer, and were even more potent than the C-terminal dimer in this cell proliferation assay. The absolute activity of the C-terminal dimer in our assay was lower than that of the native TPO protein, which is different from the previously reported findings in which the C-terminal dimer was found to be as active as the natural ligand (Cwirla et al. (1997)). This might be due to differences in the conditions used in the two assays. Nevertheless, the difference in activity between tandem (C terminal of first monomer linked to N terminal of second monomer) and C-terminal (C terminal of first monomer linked to C terminal of second monomer; also referred to as parallel) dimers in the same assay clearly demonstrated the superiority of tandem repeat strategy over parallel peptide dimerization. It is interesting to note that a wide range of length is tolerated by the linker. The optimal linker between tandem peptides with the selected TMP monomers apparently is composed of 8 glycines.

Other tandem repeats. Subsequent to this first series of TMP tandem repeats, several other molecules were designed either with

different linkers or containing modifications within the monomer itself. The first of these molecules, peptide 13, has a linker composed of GPNG, a sequence known to have a high propensity to form a β -turn-type secondary structure. Although still about 100-fold more potent than the monomer, this peptide was found to be >10-fold less active than the equivalent GGGG-linked analog. Thus, introduction of a relatively rigid β -turn at the linker region seemed to have caused a slight distortion of the optimal agonist conformation in this short linker form.

The Trp9 in the TMP sequence is a highly conserved residue among the active peptides isolated from random peptide libraries. There is also a highly conserved Trp in the consensus sequences of EPO mimetic peptides and this Trp residue was found to be involved in the formation of a hydrophobic core between the two EMPs and contributed to hydrophobic interactions with the EPO receptor. Livnah *et al.* (1996), *Science* 273: 464-71). By analogy, the Trp9 residue in TMP might have a similar function in dimerization of the peptide ligand, and as an attempt to modulate and estimate the effects of noncovalent hydrophobic forces exerted by the two indole rings, several analogs were made resulting from mutations at the Trp. So in peptide 14, the Trp residue was replaced in each of the two TMP monomers with a Cys, and an intramolecular disulfide bond was formed between the two cysteines by oxidation which was envisioned to mimic the hydrophobic interactions between the two Trp residues in peptide dimerization. Peptide 15 is the reduced form of peptide 14. In peptide 16, the two Trp residues were replaced by Ala. As the assay data show, all three analogs were inactive. These data further demonstrated that Trp is critical for the activity of the TPO mimetic peptide, not just for dimer formation.

The next two peptides (peptide 17a, and 18) each contain in their 8-amino acid linker a Lys or Cys residue. These two compounds are

precursors to the two PEGylated peptides (peptide 19 and 20) in which the side chain of the Lys or Cys is modified by a PEG moiety. A PEG moiety was introduced at the middle of a relatively long linker, so that the large PEG component (5 kDa) is far enough away from the critical binding sites in the peptide molecule. PEG is a known biocompatible polymer which is increasingly used as a covalent modifier to improve the pharmacokinetic profiles of peptide- and protein-based therapeutics.



A modular, solution-based method was devised for convenient PEGylation of synthetic or recombinant peptides. The method is based on the now well established chemoselective ligation strategy which utilizes the specific reaction between a pair of mutually reactive functionalities. So, for pegylated peptide 19, the lysine side chain was preactivated with a bromoacetyl group to give peptide 17b to accommodate reaction with a thiol-derivatized PEG. To do that, an orthogonal protecting group, Dde, was employed for the protection of the lysine ϵ -amine. Once the whole peptide chain was assembled, the N-terminal amine was reprotected with t-Boc. Dde was then removed to allow for the bromoacetylation. This strategy gave a high quality crude peptide which was easily purified using conventional reverse phase HPLC. Ligation of the peptide with the thiol-modified PEG took place in aqueous buffer at pH 8 and the reaction completed within 30 minutes. MALDI-MS analysis of the purified, pegylated material revealed a characteristic, bell-shaped spectrum with an increment of 44 Da between the adjacent peaks. For PEG-peptide 20, a cysteine residue was placed in the linker region and its side chain thiol group would serve as an attachment site for a maleimide-containing PEG. Similar conditions were used for the pegylation of this peptide. As the assay data revealed, these two pegylated peptides had even higher in vitro bioactivity as compared to their unpegylated counterparts.

Peptide 21 has in its 8-amino acid linker a potential glycosylation motif, NGS. Since our exemplary tandem repeats are made up of natural amino acids linked by peptide bonds, expression of such a molecule in an appropriate eukaryotic cell system should produce a glycopeptide with the carbohydrate moiety added on the side chain carboxamide of Asn. Glycosylation is a common post-translational modification process which can have many positive impacts on the biological activity of a given protein by increasing its aqueous solubility and in vivo stability. As the assay data show, incorporation of this glycosylation motif into the linker maintained high bioactivity. The synthetic precursor of the potential glycopeptide had in effect an activity comparable to that of the $-(G)_8$ -linked analog. Once glycosylated, this peptide is expected to have the same order of activity as the pegylated peptides, because of the similar chemophysical properties exhibited by a PEG and a carbohydrate moiety.

The last peptide is a dimer of a tandem repeat. It was prepared by oxidizing peptide 18, which formed an intermolecular disulfide bond between the two cysteine residues located at the linker. This peptide was designed to address the possibility that TMP was active as a tetramer. The assay data showed that this peptide was not more active than an average tandem repeat on an adjusted molar basis, which indirectly supports the idea that the active form of TMP is indeed a dimer, otherwise dimerization of a tandem repeat would have a further impact on the bioactivity.

In order to confirm the *in vitro* data in animals, one pegylated TMP tandem repeat (compound 20 in Table A) was delivered subcutaneously to normal mice via osmotic pumps. Time and dose-dependent increases were seen in platelet numbers for the duration of treatment. Peak platelet levels over 4-fold baseline were seen on day 8. A dose of $10\text{ }\mu\text{g/kg/day}$ of the pegylated TMP repeat produced a similar response to rHuMGDF (non-pegylated) at $100\text{ }\mu\text{g/kg/day}$ delivered by the same route.

Table A—TPO-mimetic Peptides

Peptide No.	Compound	SEQ ID NO:	Relative Potency
	TPO		++++
	TMP monomer	13	+
	TMP C-C dimer		+++
TMP-(G) _n -TMP:			
1	n = 0	341	++++
2	n = 1	342	++++
3	n = 2	343	++++
4	n = 3	344	++++
5	n = 4	345	++++
6	n = 5	346	++++
7	n = 6	347	++++
8	n = 7	348	++++
9	n = 8	349	++++
10	n = 9	350	++++
11	n = 10	351	++++
12	n = 14	352	++++
13	TMP-GPNG-TMP	353	+++
14	IEGPTLRQCLAARA-GGGGGGGG-IEGPTLRQCLAARA 	354	-
15	(cyclic) IEGPTLRQCLAARA-GGGGGGGG- IEGPTLRQCLAARA (linear)	355	-
16	IEGPTLRQALAARA-GGGGGGGG- IEGPTLRQALAARA	356	-
17a	TMP-GGGKGGGG-TMP	357	++++
17b	TMP-GGGK(BrAc)GGGG-TMP	358	ND
18	TMP-GGGCGGGG-TMP	359	++++
19	TMP-GGGK(PEG)GGGG-TMP	360	++++
20	TMP-GGGC(PEG)GGGG-TMP	361	++++
21	TMP-GGGN*GSGG-TMP	362	++++
22	TMP-GGGCGGGG-TMP 	363	++++
	TMP-GGGCGGGG-TMP	363	

Discussion. It is well accepted that MGDF acts in a way similar to hGH, i.e., one molecule of the protein ligand binds two molecules of the receptor for its activation. Wells et al.(1996), Ann. Rev. Biochem. 65: 609-34. Now, this interaction is mimicked by the action of a much smaller peptide, TMP. However, the present studies suggest that this mimicry requires the concerted action of two TMP molecules, as covalent dimerization of TMP in either a C-C parallel or C-N sequential fashion increased the in vitro biological potency of the original monomer by a factor of greater than 10^3 . The relatively low biopotency of the monomer is probably due to inefficient formation of the noncovalent dimer. A preformed covalent repeat has the ability to eliminate the entropy barrier for the formation of a noncovalent dimer which is exclusively driven by weak, noncovalent interactions between two molecules of the small, 14-residue peptide.

It is intriguing that this tandem repeat approach had a similar effect on enhancing bioactivity as the reported C-C dimerization is intriguing. These two strategies brought about two very different molecular configurations. The C-C dimer is a quasi-symmetrical molecule, while the tandem repeats have no such symmetry in their linear structures. Despite this difference in their primary structures, these two types of molecules appeared able to fold effectively into a similar biologically active conformation and cause the dimerization and activation of c-Mpl. These experimental observations provide a number of insights into how the two TMP molecules may interact with one another in binding to c-Mpl. First, the two C-termini of the two bound TMP molecules must be in relatively close proximity with each other, as suggested by data on the C-terminal dimer. Second, the respective N- and C-termini of the two TMP molecules in the receptor complex must also be very closely aligned with each other, such that they can be directly tethered together with a single peptide bond

to realize the near maximum activity-enhancing effect brought about by the tandem repeat strategy. Insertion of one or more (up to 14) glycine residues at the junction did not increase (or decrease) significantly the activity any further. This may be due to the fact that a flexible polyglycine peptide chain is able to loop out easily from the junction without causing any significant changes in the overall conformation. This flexibility seems to provide the freedom of orientation for the TMP peptide chains to fold into the required conformation in interacting with the receptor and validate it as a site of modification. Indirect evidence supporting this came from the study on peptide 13, in which a much more rigid b-turn-forming sequence as the linker apparently forced a deviation of the backbone alignment around the linker which might have resulted in a slight distortion of the optimal conformation, thus resulting in a moderate (10-fold) decrease in activity as compared with the analogous compound with a 4-Gly linker. Third, Trp9 in TMP plays a similar role as Trp13 in EMP, which is involved not only in peptide:peptide interaction for the formation of dimers but also is important for contributing hydrophobic forces in peptide:receptor interaction. Results obtained with the W to C mutant analog, peptide 14, suggest that a covalent disulfide linkage is not sufficient to approximate the hydrophobic interactions provided by the Trp pair and that, being a short linkage, it might bring the two TMP monomers too close, therefore perturbing the overall conformation of the optimal dimeric structure.

An analysis of the possible secondary structure of the TMP peptide can provide further understanding on the interaction between TMP and c-Mpl. This can be facilitated by making reference to the reported structure of the EPO mimetic peptide. Livnah *et al.* (1996), *Science* 273:464-75 The receptor-bound EMP has a b-hairpin structure with a b-turn formed by the highly consensus Gly-Pro-Leu-Thr at the center of its sequence. Instead of

GPLT, TMP has a highly selected GPTL sequence which is likely to form a similar turn. However, this turn-like motif is located near the N-terminal part in TMP. Secondary structure prediction using Chau-Fasman method suggests that the C-terminal half of the peptide has a tendency to adopt a helical conformation. Together with the highly conserved Trp at position 9, this C-terminal helix may contribute to the stabilization of the dimeric structure. It is interesting to note that most of our tandem repeats are more potent than the C-terminal parallel dimer. Tandem repeats seem to give the molecule a better fit conformation than does the C-C parallel dimerization. The seemingly asymmetric feature of a tandem repeat might have brought it closer to the natural ligand which, as an asymmetric molecule, uses two different sites to bind two identical receptor molecules.

Introduction of a PEG moiety was envisaged to enhance the in vivo activity of the modified peptide by providing it a protection against proteolytic degradation and by slowing down its clearance through renal filtration. It was unexpected that pegylation could further increase the in vitro bioactivity of a tandem repeated TMP peptide in the cell-based proliferation assay.

Example 2

Fc-TMP fusions

TMPs (and EMPs as described in Example 3) were expressed in either monomeric or dimeric form as either N-terminal or C-terminal fusions to the Fc region of human IgG1. In all cases, the expression construct utilized the luxPR promoter promoter in the plasmid expression vector pAMG21.

Fc-TMP. A DNA sequence coding for the Fc region of human IgG1 fused in-frame to a monomer of the TPO-mimetic peptide was constructed using standard PCR technology. Templates for PCR reactions were the pFc-A3 vector and a synthetic TMP gene. The synthetic gene was

constructed from the 3 overlapping oligonucleotides (SEQ ID NOS: 364, 365, and 366, respectively) shown below:

```

5 1842-97      AAA AAA GGA TCC TCG AGA TTA AGC ACG AGC AGC CAG CCA
      CTG ACG CAG AGT CGG ACC
10 1842-98      AAA GGT GGA GGT GGT GGT ATC GAA GGT CCG ACT CTG CGT
      CAG TGG CTG GCT GCT CGT GCT TAA TCT CGA GGA TCC TTT
      TTT

```

These oligonucleotides were annealed to form the duplex encoding an amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NOS: 367 and 368, respectively) shown below:

```

15      AAAGGTGGAGGTGGTGGTATCGAAGGTCCGACTCTGCGTCAGTGGCTGGCTGCTCGTGCT
      1  -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 60
      a      K G G G G G I E G P T L R Q W L A A R A -
20      TAATCTCGAGGATCCTTTTTT
      61 -----+-----+-----+-----+ 81
      a      ATTAGAGCTCCTAGGAAAAAA
      *

```

25 This duplex was amplified in a PCR reaction using 1842-98 and 1842-97 as the sense and antisense primers.

The Fc portion of the molecule was generated in a PCR reaction with pFc-A3 using the primers shown below (SEQ ID NOS: 369 and 370):

```

30 1216-52      AAC ATA AGT ACC TGT AGG ATC G
      1830-51      TTCGATACCA CCACCTCCAC CTTTACCCGG AGACAGGGAG AGGCTCTTCTGC

```

35 The oligonucleotides 1830-51 and 1842-98 contain an overlap of 24 nucleotides, allowing the two genes to be fused together in the correct reading frame by combining the above PCR products in a third reaction using the outside primers, 1216-52 and 1842-97.

40 The final PCR gene product (the full length fusion gene) was digested with restriction endonucleases XbaI and BamHI, and then ligated into the vector pAMG21 and transformed into competent E. coli strain 2596 cells as described for EMP-Fc herein. Clones were screened for the ability to produce the recombinant protein product and to possess the

gene fusion having the correct nucleotide sequence. A single such clone was selected and designated Amgen strain #3728.

The nucleotide and amino acid sequences (SEQ ID NOS: 5 and 6) of the fusion protein are shown in Figure 7.

5 Fc-TMP-TMP. A DNA sequence coding for the Fc region of human IgG1 fused in-frame to a dimer of the TPO-mimetic peptide was constructed using standard PCR technology. Templates for PCR reactions were the pFc-A3 vector and a synthetic TMP-TMP gene. The synthetic gene was constructed from the 4 overlapping oligonucleotides (SEQ ID
10 NOS: 371 to 374, respectively) shown below:

```

1830-52      AAA GGT GGA GGT GGT GGT ATC GAA GGT CCG
              ACT CTG CGT CAG TGG CTG GCT GCT CGT GCT
15  1830-53      ACC TCC ACC ACC AGC ACG AGC AGC CAG
              CCA CTG ACG CAG AGT CGG ACC
              GGT GGT GGA GGT GGC GGC GGA GGT ATT GAG GGC CCA ACC
20  1830-54      CTT CGC CAA TGG CTT GCA GCA CGC GCA
              AAA AAA AGG ATC CTC GAG ATT ATG CGC GTG CTG CAA GCC
              ATT GGC GAA GGG TTG GGC CCT CAA TAC CTC CGC CGC C
1830-55

```

The 4 oligonucleotides were annealed to form the duplex encoding an
25 amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NOS: 375 and 376, respectively) shown below:

```

30  a      1  AAAGGTGGAGGTGGTGGTATCGAAGGTCCGACTCTGCGTCAGTGGCTGGCTGCTCGTGCT
              -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 60
              CCAGGCTGAGACGCAGTCACCGACCGACGAGCACGA
              K G G G G G I E G P T L R Q W L A A R A -
35  a      61 GGTGGTGGAGGTGGCGGCGGAGGTATTGAGGGCCCAACCCCTCGCCAATGGCTTGCAGCA
              -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 120
              CCACCACCTCCACCGCCGCCCTCCATAACTCCCGGGTTGGGAAGCGGTTACCGAACGTCGT
              G G G G G G G G I E G P T L R Q W L A A -
              CGCGCA
40  a      121 GCGCGTATTAGAGCTCCTAGGAAAAAA
              -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 148
              GCGCGTATTAGAGCTCCTAGGAAAAAA
              R A *-

```

This duplex was amplified in a PCR reaction using 1830-52 and 1830-55 as
45 the sense and antisense primers.

The Fc portion of the molecule was generated in a PCR reaction with pFc-A3 using the primers 1216-52 and 1830-51 as described above for

Fc-TMP. The full length fusion gene was obtained from a third PCR reaction using the outside primers 1216-52 and 1830-55.

The final PCR gene product (the full length fusion gene) was digested with restriction endonucleases XbaI and BamHI, and then ligated into the vector pAMG21 and transformed into competent E. coli strain 2596 cells as described in example 1. Clones were screened for the ability to produce the recombinant protein product and to possess the gene fusion having the correct nucleotide sequence. A single such clone was selected and designated Amgen strain #3727.

The nucleotide and amino acid sequences (SEQ ID NOS: 7 and 8) of the fusion protein are shown in Figure 8.

TMP-TMP-Fc. A DNA sequence coding for a tandem repeat of the TPO-mimetic peptide fused in-frame to the Fc region of human IgG1 was constructed using standard PCR technology. Templates for PCR reactions were the EMP-Fc plasmid from strain #3688 (see Example 3) and a synthetic gene encoding the TMP dimer. The synthetic gene for the tandem repeat was constructed from the 7 overlapping oligonucleotides shown below (SEQ ID NOS: 377 to 383, respectively):

20	1885-52	TTT TTT CAT ATG ATC GAA GGT CCG ACT CTG CGT CAG TGG
	1885-53	AGC ACG AGC AGC CAG CCA CTG ACG CAG AGT CGG ACC TTC
		GAT CAT ATG
25	1885-54	CTG GCT GCT CGT GCT GGT GGA GGC GGT GGG GAC AAA ACT
		CAC ACA
	1885-55	CTG GCT GCT CGT GCT GGC GGT GGT GGC GGA GGG GGT GGC
		ATT GAG GGC CCA
30	1885-56	AAG CCA TTG GCG AAG GGT TGG GCC CTC AAT GCC ACC CCC
		TCC GCC ACC ACC GCC
	1885-57	ACC CTT CGC CAA TGG CTT GCA GCA CGC GCA GGG GGA GGC
35		GGT GGG GAC AAA ACT
	1885-58	CCC ACC GCC TCC CCC TGC GCG TGC TGC

These oligonucleotides were annealed to form the duplex shown encoding an amino acid sequence shown below (SEQ ID NOS 384 and 385):


```

      TTTTTCATATGATCGAAGGTCCGACTCTGCGTCAGTGGCTGGCTGCTCGTGCTGGCGGT
1  -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 60
      GTATACTAGCTTCCAGGCTGAGACGCAGTCACCGACCGACGAGCACGACCGCCA
a      M I E G P T L R Q W L A A R A G G -
5
      GGTGGCGGAGGGGGTGGCATTGAGGGCCCAACCCCTTCGCCAATGGCTGGCTGCTCGTGCT
61 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 120
a      CCACCGCCTCCCCCACCCTAACTCCCGGGTTGGGAAGCGGTTACCGAACGTCGTGCGCGT
10      G G G G G G I E G P T L R Q W L A A R A -
      GGTGGAGGCGGTGGGGACAAAACCTCTGGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTGGAGGCGGTGGGGACAAA
121 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ 180
a      CCCCCTCCGCCACCC
15      G G G G G D K T L A A R A G G G G G D K -
      ACTCACACA
181 ----- 189
a      T H T -
20

```

This duplex was amplified in a PCR reaction using 1885-52 and 1885-58 as the sense and antisense primers.

The Fc portion of the molecule was generated in a PCR reaction with DNA from the EMP-Fc fusion strain #3688 (see Example 3) using the primers 1885-54 and 1200-54. The full length fusion gene was obtained from a third PCR reaction using the outside primers 1885-52 and 1200-54.

The final PCR gene product (the full length fusion gene) was digested with restriction endonucleases XbaI and BamHI, and then ligated into the vector pAMG21 and transformed into competent E. coli strain 2596 cells as described for Fc-EMP herein. Clones were screened for the ability to produce the recombinant protein product and to possess the gene fusion having the correct nucleotide sequence. A single such clone was selected and designated Amgen strain #3798.

The nucleotide and amino acid sequences (SEQ ID NOS: 9 and 10) of the fusion protein are shown in Figure 9.

TMP-Fc. A DNA sequence coding for a monomer of the TPO-mimetic peptide fused in-frame to the Fc region of human IgG1 was obtained fortuitously in the ligation in TMP-TMP-Fc, presumably due to the ability of primer 1885-54 to anneal to 1885-53 as well as to 1885-58. A single clone having the correct nucleotide sequence for the TMP-Fc construct was selected and designated Amgen strain #3788.

The nucleotide and amino acid sequences (SEQ ID NOS: 11 and 12) of the fusion protein are shown in Figure 10.

Expression in E. coli. Cultures of each of the pAMG21-Fc-fusion constructs in E. coli GM221 were grown at 37 °C in Luria Broth medium containing 50 mg/ml kanamycin. Induction of gene product expression from the luxPR promoter was achieved following the addition of the synthetic autoinducer N-(3-oxohexanoyl)-DL-homoserine lactone to the culture media to a final concentration of 20 ng/ml. Cultures were incubated at 37 °C for a further 3 hours. After 3 hours, the bacterial cultures were examined by microscopy for the presence of inclusion bodies and were then collected by centrifugation. Refractile inclusion bodies were observed in induced cultures indicating that the Fc-fusions were most likely produced in the insoluble fraction in E. coli. Cell pellets were lysed directly by resuspension in Laemmli sample buffer containing 10% b-mercaptoethanol and were analyzed by SDS-PAGE. In each case, an intense coomassie-stained band of the appropriate molecular weight was observed on an SDS-PAGE gel.

pAMG21. The expression plasmid pAMG21 can be derived from the Amgen expression vector pCFM1656 (ATCC #69576) which in turn be derived from the Amgen expression vector system described in US Patent No. 4,710,473. The pCFM1656 plasmid can be derived from the described pCFM836 plasmid (Patent No. 4,710,473) by:

- (a) destroying the two endogenous NdeI restriction sites by end filling with T4 polymerase enzyme followed by blunt end ligation;
- (b) replacing the DNA sequence between the unique AatII and ClaI restriction sites containing the synthetic P_L promoter with a similar fragment obtained from pCFM636 (patent No. 4,710,473) containing the PL promoter (see SEQ ID NO: 386 below); and